

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

Merrill Lynch Business Financial Services, Inc.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

Case No. 07 CV 3900 (GBD)

Welko, Inc., Sam Kohl, Caren Kohl and "John  
Doe #1" through "John Doe #12"

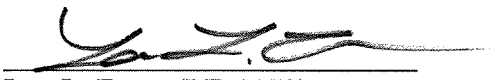
**RULE 7.1 STATEMENT**

Defendants.

-----X

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and to enable Judges and Magistrate Judges of the Court to evaluate possible disqualification or recusal, the undersigned counsel for Welko, Inc., (a private non-governmental party) certifies that Welko, Inc., has no corporate parents, affiliates or subsidiaries that are publicly held.

Date: June 20, 2007

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leo L. Esses (LE-1173)  
Cohen Tauber Spievack & Wagner LLP  
420 Lexington Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10170  
(212) 586-5800  
lesses@ctswlaw.com  
*Attorneys for Defendants*